

Tobacco

Drawer

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HABITS

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Abraham Lincoln's Habits

Tobacco

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



Lincoln Lore

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Lincoln Cigar and Tobacco Labels

Editor's Note: Approximately one hundred cigar and tobacco labels in the Lincoln Library-Museum, all featuring a portrait of Abraham Lincoln or the Lincoln name, constitute the only known collection of its kind. The tobacco advertisements deal largely with cigars, but some of the labels feature smoking and chewing tobacco.

The cigar box labels are in color and very attractive. Perhaps not one of these advertised brands are available today. The labels have been collected over a period of many years by the Foundation staff, and they are often shown to visitors to indicate the extent and depth of our material.

Ironically, President Lincoln did not smoke or chew, and a humorous poem by Edward W. Mills (Monaghan 3954) bearing the title, "Lincoln Never Smoked a Cigarette," has been published. From the twenty three stanzas, eight have been selected for this introduction.

R. G. M.

LINCOLN NEVER SMOKED A CIGARETTE

My boy take heed while young and strong,

And keep yourself from going wrong.
No matter what the world may say,
Take good advice this very day . . .

Abe Lincoln speaks from out the grave,
This sun-kissed man Kentucky gave,
To every boy throughout the land,
Of evils rife on every hand . . .

Resourceful to the last degree—
No question great he failed to see.
He proved an ever flowing well
Of stories rare he loved to tell.

He punctured error with them, too—
His keen mind knew just what to do.
This mastery he strove to get—
But never smoked a cigarette.

Grim war was at his very door—

He heard its rumbling more and more;
The issue then he bravely met—
But never smoked a cigarette.

His critics met him everywhere,
But still he never fouled the air;
He mastered men—he did not fret—
He never smoked a cigarette . . .

Save your money, and save your health,
Add no more pennies to their wealth;
As time goes on you'll not regret
That you gave up your cigarette.

Let Lincoln lead you day by day,
For he marked out the better way;
And from your eye brush back the tear,
And worship God who sent him here.









